

## Edward Ward to Andrew Jackson, August 15, 1823, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### COLONEL EDWARD WARD TO JACKSON.1

1 Col. Edward Ward was Jackson's near neighbor. This letter shows that the two men were interested in the support of a church in the neighborhood of the Hermitage and that plans were in mind for building a church. See letter to Mrs. Jackson, Dec. 21, 1823, *post*. See also p. 117.

Nashville, August 25, 1823.

*Dear Sir.* I have just this moment rece[i]ved your Letter by Genl Houston. I am very sorry I misssd of an opportunity of conversing with you relative to the propriety of Parson Hodges's return. I had just as I left home received a Letter from the Parson, in answer to one I some time ago wrote to him on that subject. I wrote to him that I thought he ought to return, that our neighbours in general wishd it, and that I was of Opinion, that a more liberal spirit, for the support of the preaching the Gospel, prevailed with us now, than did when he left us. I shall again write to him as soon as I reach my Farm to the same effect. I feel much at a loss what to say about the best mode of raising a Salery for our minister. I fear we should make but a small progress that way by selling Seats. I cannot think of more than 12 or fifteen persons that would purchase Seats, and from the very good neighbourhood feelings that prevail with us, there would be no competition excited in the sale of them. The consequence would be that the Seats would sell, just for as little as each person would think proper to bid for them. I am fearful that a plan of this sort is not well calculated for the Country, particularly in a thinly populated neighbourhood like ours; further more I should fear that it would not be generally pleasing, and might frequently operate against

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the attendance of persons, not immediately interested in, or connected with the Church. I on the whole am of opinion that it will be best, to pay our parson thro private subscription. A Church being built, and a parson engaged regularly to preach in it, will draw from our neighbours a liberal contribution. Whatever plans may be adopted by the neighbourhood for the support of the preaching of the Gospel, I will with promptitude subscribe to. As to the Rye you want, with pleasure I will furnish you, and wish you to be at no trouble to procure it by way of returning, that quantity will produce no inconvenience with me. I know not whether any is thrashed out; but it will be prepared for you when calld for. Inclosed is a note to my Overseer on the Subject.

With great respect and friendship